Homelessness is defined in Massachusetts as, “an individual who both lacks a fixed regular and adequate nighttime residence and who resides in emergency or transitional shelter programs, or an individual who both lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and who resides in emergency or transitional shelter programs, or who lives in places not designed for human habitation such as cars, abandoned buildings, the woods or the street. Persons residing in institutional or recovery programs that were homeless upon entry and are without housing upon release are considered homeless ” Homelessness is an important and overwhelming issue in Boston. In 2011, there were 6,647 homeless men, women and children in the City of Boston, but in 2012, there were 6,992 homeless men, women and children. That’s an increase of 5.2%. Homeless people can live in a shelter, in their cars, abandoned buildings, in the woods, or on the street. In 2011, 181 people lived on the street, but in 2012, 193 people lived on the streets. Many children are effected by homelessness. 1 in every 45 children in the U.S are homeless each year. In 2011, there were 1,928 homeless children, but in 2012, there were 1,971 homeless children in Boston. Homelessness has been an increasing problem in Boston, but it can be helped. There are many opportunities at homeless shelters and soup kitchens. For more information look at: <http://www.bphc.org/programs/esc/homeless-census/Forms%20%20Documents/2012-2013%20Key%20Findings.pdf>

And

<http://www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org/understanding-homelessness/statistics-definitions/>